



Ames Historical Society has a new name and new look!

Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.

History in the Time of COVID-19

With the abrupt shift in our activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, the staff has been very creative in offering a number of programs online.



We invite all of our members to view the **COVID-19** tab on our website for ideas about at-home activities with children as well as links to videos, our collections, an array of online resources, and lectures and events delivered via *Zoom*, the online meeting platform.

If you are not already receiving the colorful **Museum Mondays** emailings, please send a short note to info@ameshistory.org to be added to the mailing list.



The email includes notices about and registrations for online events, a weekly video, featured artifacts and links to our profuse digitized resources.

The staff has been mostly working from home but they do come in to the now very quiet

Museum to perform tasks that can't be done remotely. When we open our doors once again, the current exhibit, **'Uncorked'** will be extended several months.



Each Thursday at 7pm CDT while the museum is closed, a **History Hour** is being hosted on Facebook Live. Our Exhibits/Research Manager, Alex Fejfar offers a fun conversation about Ames history and interesting stories from the archives – and then he answers your questions! Alex handles research for exhibits and is the primary person who answers incoming inquiries about Ames history. He has become very knowledgeable about many facets of our local story!

On May 21, Alex talked about the Ames City Hall bombing, which took place 50 years ago this month. If you missed these conversations, the History Hours have been recorded and links are on the COVID-19 tab.

We Want Ames COVID-19 Stories

Become a part of history! The Ames History Museum would like to preserve materials documenting how COVID-19 is affecting Ames people. Examples:

- Keep a diary of what life is like during social distancing. How are your daily tasks and activities different from before COVID-19? What does your schedule look like while social distancing?
- If you are an essential worker, what are you experiencing on a day-to-day basis?
- Write letters explaining what life is like in the Ames community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

....continued next page

- How many people are you living with? Is everyone staying at home? Do you have any essential workers at your house?
- What do you read, hear, and see about what is happening in the world?
- What are your favorite and least favorite things about social distancing?
- What is your set-up working/schooling from home?
- What do closed businesses, schools and playgrounds look like? What looks different from before the pandemic?
- Take photos!

After the museum reopens, consider donating these materials to AHM. We will select a number of items for our collection to preserve for future generations.

This project is for people of all ages and backgrounds. We'd like a wide perspective of the good and the bad in Ames during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Match this \$8,500 Donation!

Like many of our non-profit agencies, the COVID-19 shutdown has affected the Museum's cash-flow. A long-time supporter of local history has issued a **challenge to match an \$8,500 gift by July 1.**

If you are in a position to donate, we hope you will! Payment can be made on the Museum's website by PayPal or credit/debit card. **As of May 20, \$4,225** has been raised toward the match. Your donation will help us continue to fulfill our mission of engaging our diverse public and providing unique opportunities to learn about Ames history - both online as we are now and when we're able to reopen the museum.

Did you know? The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act allows all taxpayers to take a charitable deduction in 2020 of up to \$300, even if you do not itemize.

2020 Museum Lecture Series

These lectures will take place online via *Zoom*, the online meeting platform.

To register your desire to attend, go to the COVID-19 tab on our website and scroll down to Online Events.

Once you respond, you will be sent a link to join. Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library.

Wednesday, June 3, 7 pm on Zoom

LEADING THE CHARGE FOR THE 19TH AMENDMENT:

IOWA AND MIDWESTERN WOMEN LEADERS IN THE FIGHT FOR THE VOTE



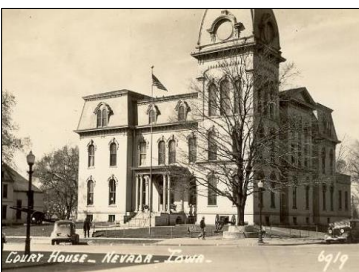
By Diana Carlin, Professor Emerita of Communication, St. Louis University

The 80-year campaign for suffrage may have started in Seneca Falls, New York, but many of the early strides and some of the major players had mid-western roots. Carrie Chapman Catt is one of the most famous, but there were others who were with her. This presentation looks at the milestones achieved by women from the heartland that were ahead of the nation's passage of full voting rights.

Supported by the Ames Public Library Friends Foundation.

Tuesday, June 23, 7 pm on Zoom

THE STORY COUNTY COURTHOUSE FIGHT, 1864-75



By Douglas Biggs, Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney

Currently, most of Story County's population lives west of the Skunk River. In the 19th century it was exactly the opposite and Nevada was the county's most important town. Ames did not exist until 1864 and was not incorporated until 1870, but in the 1860s a rivalry grew up between Ames and the county seat. This rivalry entered county politics in the years after the Civil War, often manifesting itself in a war of words in newspapers (i.e: *Ames Times*, 1/19/1893: "You Nevada 'fellers' had better look a little out now. We Ames people eat bear meat."). Conflicts arose over the location of the County Fair and County Courthouse.

Biggs will detail aspects of these fights and how Nevada emerged as the winner

The lecture on **Prohibition in Iowa** by Linda McCann will be rescheduled at a future time, possibly this fall. The exact date is not known but will be announced as soon as it is set.

Hoggatt Summer Cancelled

The Board and staff made the unhappy decision to cancel the summer season of programs and open houses at Hoggatt School. Due to the small size of the structure, there was no practical way to allow visitors to distance themselves from each other.



Planning is underway to present several new videos via an online format, so watch for future announcements or check the website, www.ameshistory.org.

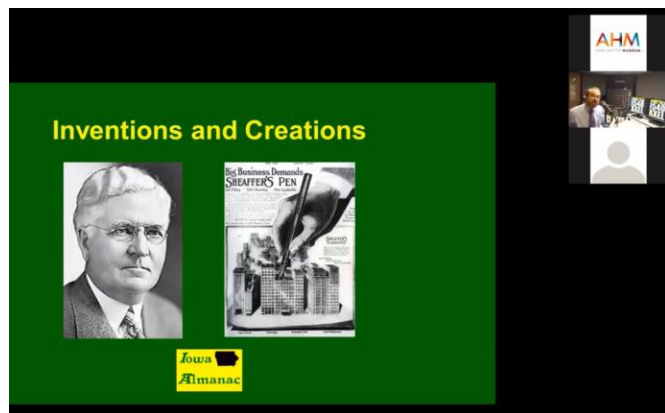
Our First Online Lecture

On Tuesday, April 28 the Museum tip-toed into the unknown by offering its first lecture online via Zoom. Jeff Stein focused his **Iowa Almanac** talk on unique individuals in Iowa history. We were delighted that over 75 people listened in! One of the highlighted persons was Walter A. Sheaffer, the founder of the Shaeffer Pen Company in Fort Madison, Iowa in 1913.

This prompted member, Margot Eness, to respond.

"We were delighted with Jeff's presentation. I'll bet he has facts that he could share for an unlimited series! Our memories need to be tickled every once in a while - Sheaffer pens for instance. No kid was trusted with a fountain pen until 8th grade graduation and that pen was expected to last them forever. Of course it didn't. We bent the points and lost them, ran over them with our bicycles - the normal life processes - and didn't tell our folks until close to Christmas, sharpening up our trusty No. 2 pencils to do our homework."

Watch Jeff's talk at https://youtu.be/IN6T_yAvs7o



Congratulations to Cornbred BBQ

In April, Ryan and Sonya Newstrom of Cornbred BBQ received the 2020 Main Street Iowa **Terrific Total Building Rehabilitation** Award for their renovation of the Ames Depot. Over the last 10 years, Ryan and Sonya have taken part in the professional competitive barbecue circuit and built the Cornbred brand and a devoted local following with the launch of a successful food truck. When space in Ames' historic Chicago and Northwestern passenger depot opened up in 2018, they were thrilled with the opportunity to open a brick and mortar BBQ location.



Their extensive remodeling work emphasizes the Depot's unique spaces, details and materials while providing a comfortable and stylish space for diners.

Online Historic Property Records

The Story County Auditor's and Recorder's Offices are now co-hosting the County's historic property records online. Older records were recently digitized by Cott Systems, including transfer books and deeds. Go to: www.StoryCountyIowa.gov > Auditor's Office > Real Estate Transfer Records - which takes you to the Cott Systems repository. For assistance in navigating these records, call the Auditor's Office at 515-382-7210.

Do Genealogy with FAMILYSEARCH

The Ames Public Library is now a designated FamilySearch Affiliate Library. FamilySearch is a genealogy research database that includes thousands of records from around the world. While FamilySearch is free to use, there are 1,000s of records that are inaccessible outside of an Affiliate Library. Now those locked records may be accessed from any Library computer or from devices connected to APL's WiFi network. Connect to these resources by visiting the Library's website, then selecting Learn & Explore, then Online Learning. FamilySearch is available in-library only, but you may use your own device to access these resources when you're connected using Ames Public Library's free wifi network.

Thelma Holveck Miller



Thelma Johanna Holveck Miller passed away peacefully at her Ames home on Friday, February 21, 2020, at the grand age of 103. Thelma's husband, Marvin owned and operated Ames Stationers on Main Street and Thelma worked there as bookkeeper. Marvin was a co-founder along with Farwell Brown of the Ames Heritage Association, the first designated name of our organization.

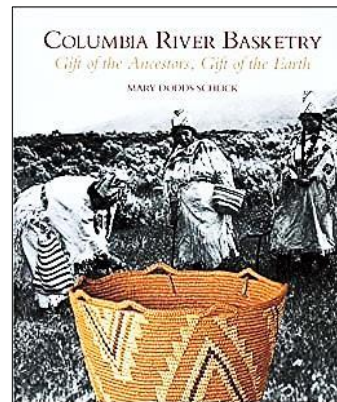
Thelma and Marvin shared their interest and devotion to local history. Staff member emeritus, Dennis Wendell remembers Marvin in 1981 perched high on the roof of Hoggatt School on a hot day replacing worn shingles, sweating, but not swearing! He also collected rocks for the foundation and laid wooden paving blocks for the shed floor. Marvin and Thelma donated many artifacts for the school: slate boards and pencils, kerosene lamps, lunch pails, hand-woven rugs and even a water pail and dipper. After Marvin's death in 2001, Thelma donated over \$180,000 to fund the Marvin F. Miller Historical Research Room at the Museum. This room provides space for patrons doing research and permanent and changing exhibits, meetings, presentations, receptions and our information desk and gift shop. A recent bequest added \$100,000 to our Capital Improvements Fund.

Wendell developed an important bond between Thelma and the Historical Society. He visited her often with treats and would take copious notes as she recalled her life experiences and Ames history. Thelma was a talented fiber artist - washing, carding, dyeing and spinning wool into yarn and weaving, knitting or crocheting it into useful and beautiful things. She was also an avid collector of antique buttons, with some 4,000 examples in carefully organized and labelled albums. Her special Christmas display consisted of a six-foot high felt Christmas tree populated with bird ornaments gathered from the couple's many trips.

A video interview conducted on May 5, 2011 with Thelma is available at the History Museum and a transcript may be read either on site or checked out on loan. The interview may be watched on Youtube by searching "Thelma Miller Oral History."

Mary Dodds Schlick

Mary Dodds Schlick grew up in Ames, graduated from Ames High in 1943, from Iowa State in 1947, and married at the Congregational Church in 1949. In 1950, she moved to the Colville Indian Reservation in north central Washington with her husband William 'Bud,' a forester for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. For over 50 years, she maintained a close connection with the native people of the Columbia River Plateau as a neighbor, journalist, teacher and master basket maker on the Colville, Warm Springs and Yakama Reservations. She died March 17 in Stevenson, OR at age 94. In her memoir, *Coming to Stay*, she documents the things she witnessed, from the federal efforts to terminate reservations in the 1950s through the growth of tribal self-determination that began in the 1970s.



Mary was the author of *Columbia River Basketry: Gift of the Ancestors, Gift of the Earth*. She was a master basketry artist in the Oregon Traditional Arts Program and in 1998 received an Oregon Governor's Arts Award.

In her book, Mary wrote about the weavers who lived along the Columbia River, presenting the baskets in the context of the lives of the people who created and used them. "Baskets are works of art," she wrote, "but they also carry stories of human ingenuity and survival in its most generous sense. They are tangible lessons in history."

Schlick also wrote about the descendants of the early basket weavers who taught her the craft. The Baskets of the mid-Columbia River are among the finest examples of Indian textile art in North America and are included in the collections of most major museums.

Through her teaching of others, Schlick left a profound legacy, assuring the preservation and passing on of the art of basketry. Her book is an inspirational sourcebook for basket weavers and other craftspeople and serves as an invaluable reference for scholars, curators and collectors in identifying, dating and interpreting examples of Columbia River basketry. The Museum has several small examples of her work.

Local Stories - Important People - Recent Passings

Joy Ringham Munn

Joy Ringham Munn was born on a homestead near West Plains, Saskatchewan, on December 15, 1924. Her parents met there - both had come from England to settle the land. After attending school in Regina, SK, Joy received an occupational therapy degree from the University of Toronto. Following internships in Vancouver and Montreal, she returned to Vancouver to practice and was instrumental in establishing an Occupational Therapy program for home-bound tuberculosis patients.

In the early 1950s, Joy's interest in art led her to stay with family in Ames to study applied art at Iowa State. Joy soon took a job at Iowa State's WOI Radio and TV, the only station in Central Iowa in TV's early days. Joy became WOI's first commercial artist, creating black and white artwork for use on the air.



This led to her next role in 1951 as co-founder (with Creighton Knaua), creative director and host of *The Magic Window*, one of the first children's television programs in the country. Joy was a popular television personality in her day and she was proud of the part she played in the early days of television programming for children.

The show featured activities such as handicrafts, songs, news items of interest, letters from viewers and birthday recognitions for the children watching. She created artwork for the program, brought in a pet parakeet, introduced the mail hound and featured guest appearances. The award-winning program enjoyed a much broader fan base in Central Iowa than just children - including residents of the Marshalltown Veteran's Home!

In 1952 she met Alfred "Fritz" Munn and they married in 1953. Soon after that, Joy left *The Magic Window* but the show continued until 1994 and is still the longest running children's TV show in American history.

Joy was active in Munn Lumber Company, the family business, and for a number of years had a dollhouse miniatures shop, "Joy's Corner," in the retail store.

Joy was a tireless volunteer and served on many local boards and committees. She was a charter member of



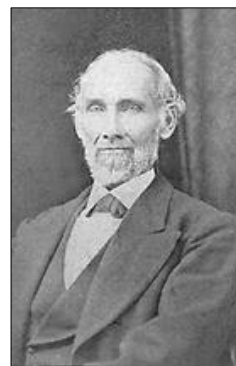
Unity Church of Ames and was active in arts-related and service organizations. She was also instrumental in helping the City of Ames acquire the Munn Woods nature area in west Ames.

Joy was a talented artist who will be remembered through the many drawings and paintings she left behind. She left us on January 19, 2020 at age 96.

Another Local Story

Found: Mr. Hoggatt!

Museum staff was elated by a recent discovery! Eric Smidt, Ames School District Communications Director,



was doing research related to the 150th anniversary of the forming of the school district when he found, online, a picture of Lucian Q. Hoggatt, the namesake of our first one-room school.

This was a cause of great excitement, as we had never before been able to find an image of Hoggatt. The image was found on the Iowa Legislature's website that has recently added information pertaining to all legislators dating back to the first Legislative Assembly in 1838.

Hoggatt was an old settler of Story County, a native of Indiana, a farmer and flat-boatman and a lieutenant in the Mexican War who took part in the battle of Buena Vista. In 1860 he came to Iowa and settled on land near where Ames was later built. He served four years as Story County sheriff and one legislative term in the Iowa House in 1874. He died in March 1896 at age 88.

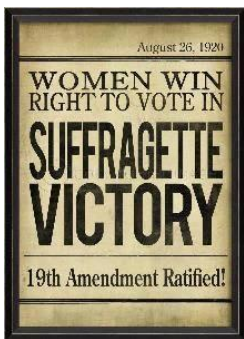
Miller Memorials

We are most grateful to Thelma Miller for designating the Ames History Museum for memorials in her name; these have totaled \$1,470. The Museum also received artifacts from her children and her estate including Thelma's wedding dress and Marvin's wedding suit, and Marvin's Navy uniform, Ames Stationers artifacts, her antique button and buckle collection and her felt Christmas tree which many people remember from her home. At the Museum, the Miller plaque says:

Marvin F. Miller Historical Research Room

*A generous gift of Thelma J. Miller
in tribute to her husband, a founder of the
Ames Historical Society, prominent civic leader
and longtime proprietor of Ames Stationers. 2011*

Hard Won, Not Done



While the public events have been cancelled or moved online for the state-wide Centennial Celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote, the website remains a great resource for information. It includes book titles for all ages and a curriculum of study about the suffrage movement in Iowa and profiles of the leaders who made such a difference in the outcome. Go to <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org>.

Society Wish List

Our most grateful thanks go to Tracey Stoll for office supplies!

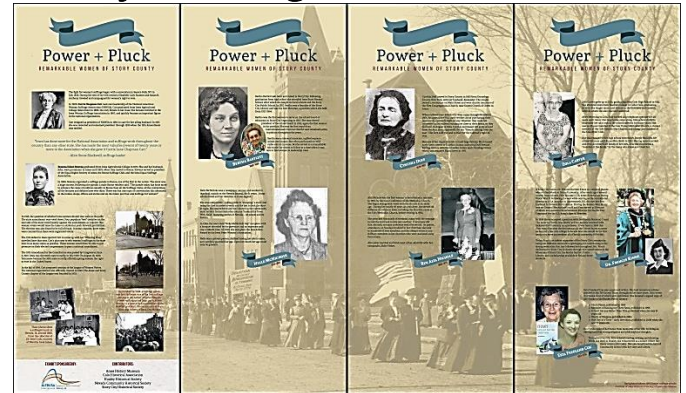
Ongoing wishes:

- **Tools** for creating exhibits: orbital hand sander, circular saw, 18 foot multi-position ladder (Little Giant or similar)
- **Cleaning supplies** - disinfecting spray, hand sanitizer, disposable masks and gloves
- Ames **photos** from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive).
- Funds for **archival boxes** (approximately \$13 each), containers we endlessly need.
- Office and building **supplies**: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing info@ameshistory.org.



County Traveling Exhibit



A traveling exhibit featuring stories of Story County women has begun its tour: **Power & Pluck: Remarkable Women of Story County**. This exhibit ties into the 19th Amendment Centennial. It is still available for reservation and is constructed on retractable banners that are easy to set up and take-down and fit in many types of spaces. Call 515-232-2148 to reserve. *Publicity for this exhibit was funded by a grant from Altru.*

Reaching 5,000 Hours

One of our most reliable volunteers, Eric Wierson, reached 5,000 total volunteer hours for the organization in February! Eric has greeted hundreds of visitors



from the Museum's welcome desk and fills in whenever and wherever the staff needs an extra set of hands. He was rewarded with an elaborate cookie! Eric – you are the BEST!

Gratefully acknowledging our Executive Level Business Members

NORTHCREST
community
Uniquely Yours, Uniquely Home


Grandon Funeral
and Cremation Care

 **H.L. MUNN**
LUMBER CO.

 **Mary Greeley**
MEDICAL CENTER

NORTH
GRAND MALL

Museum Closing & Opening

Due to the current pandemic, the Museum closed March 17. AHM staff members, Casie Vance, Alex Fejfar and Carly Hlubek, have been working from home during the closure, taking this opportunity to catch up on research and professional development, while creating an increased social media and internet presence. During this time, Facebook and Instagram followers have increased more than 5%!

When the museum will reopen? We're not sure. On Wednesday, May 20, Governor Reynolds announced that museums *could* open – however - staff will need to rearrange the space for social distancing, implement new cleaning procedures and prepare for the return of volunteers and visitors. We will continue to watch for the governor's recommendations, become acquainted with best practices within the museum field and follow what other local organizations are doing.

Keep an eye on AHM's website for more information.



Message from the Board President

From Sharon Wirth: As many members know, from fall 2019 to early 2020, Ames History Museum staff and Board members began planning an enlargement of the museum. An addition to the East will expand exhibit space and remodeling the current building will allow AHM to use the entire structure for operations.

Due to the pandemic and changes in the economy, the Board voted to pause the start of a capital campaign while remaining very committed to the proposed project. The pandemic and economic climate will be monitored to determine the best time to launch a capital campaign. We are grateful for your continued patience and support for the museum!

Questions? Contact Sharon Wirth at sharonwirth888@gmail.com or Museum Executive Director, Casie Vance, director@ameshistory.org.

2019 Annual Report Highlights

- Rebranded to become 'Ames History Museum'
- Prepared for a capital campaign, completed a feasibility study, finalized form of an expanded museum
- Completed a two-year grant project to catalog, photograph and store 2,000 objects.
- Launched online access to many of those artifacts
- 101 programs were presented to 5,141 people
- Partnered with 29 local and central Iowa organizations, businesses and individuals
- 1,816 people visited the Museum
- 338 research requests were answered
- 885 objects cataloged and entered into our museum software
- 93 individuals and 5 groups volunteered 5,140 hours (equivalent to 2.5 full-time employees)
- Operating Income - \$160,454
- Operating Expenses - \$172,967 (-\$12,513 taken from operating reserves)
- Endowment Fund - 2019 donations: \$88,136. Total in fund: \$283,587
- Capital Improvement Fund – 2019 donations: \$13,603. Total in fund: \$57,949
- 2020 Budget - Projected income: \$174,019, Projected expenses: \$173,943

To view the complete, colorful Annual Report, go to 'About Us' on our website, scroll to the bottom.

Ames History Museum Board:

President: Sharon Wirth

Vice-President: Peter Hallock

Secretary: Lynette Spicer

Treasurer: Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley, Jack Winkler. Monthly Board meetings are the 2nd Thursday, 6:45 pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Museum Staff:

Executive Director: Casie Vance

Collections Mgr: Carly Hlubek

Research & Exhibits Mgr: Alex Fejfar

Emeritus Staff: Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Museum: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010

Hours: Closed due to COVID-19

Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-232-2148

E-mail: info@ameshistory.org

Website: www.AmesHistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistory

Search 'Ames History Museum' on **Instagram** and **YouTube**

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Closed for the summer due to COVID-19.

Ames Historical Society has a new name!

Ames History Museum
PO Box 821
Ames, Iowa 50010

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit #122
Ames, Iowa 50010

Return Service Requested

Experience
FEELING GROOVY!
our Annual Benefit online
in August 2020
How will that work?
Details coming soon!

Museum Shop

**WHEN WE RE-OPEN,
MEMBERS ALWAYS GET 15% OFF!**

Browse our fun selections including hand-thrown pottery mugs, local and Iowa history books, t-shirts, Dinkey ornaments, games and more!
Many unique Ames-related items.
Stuff for both kids and adults.



New AHM tees!



'Uncorked' mug!

'Uncorked' mugs **now just \$20** – down from \$25
Hand-thrown, deep blue glaze.

Museum hours may change when we re-open.
Call or check the website for information.

Suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt famously said, "To get that word, "male" out of the Constitution cost the women of this country 52 years of pause-less campaign, 56 state referendum campaigns, 480 legislative campaigns to get state suffrage amendments submitted, 47 state constitutional convention campaigns, 277 state party convention campaigns, 30 national party convention campaigns to get suffrage planks in the party platforms, 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses to get the federal amendment submitted and the final ratification campaign." 2020 is the Centennial of the 19th amendment

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010